

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Re: Bill 7222, AAC USE OF UNLICENSED ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL IN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES.

My Name is Sonja Zandri. I have been an owner of Brookside Rest Home, a residential care home with twenty beds, for thirty-two years. I speak in support of this bill.

In our home, 65% of the residents are diabetic and we have helped and taught them to check their sugars with their meters. We supervise them and sometime help them with putting in their strips because their fingers won't allow them to do it or their eye sight is poor.

I have been trained and checked by several nurses and have taken a course because I became a diabetic. This procedure is not rocket science; every diabetic or a family member can learn. (My kids have done it for their dad since they were teenagers including giving him the needle.)

We have done this for years since the glucose-meters came out. We have received compliments by doctors and previous inspectors from the Department of Public Health. Unfortunately, now the residential care industry has new inspectors who seem to think we should not do this.

It is silly to think we can not record blood sugars and blood pressures and turn it over to the doctors so that they can evaluate it. Some residents are on a sliding insulin scale so they need to know what their sugar is before taking their insulin.

This is not something that a residential care home has to do but we have a special interest in good diabetic care.